

What is Data Disaggregation? Why is it important?

The Asian American and Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (AA and NH/PI) community in New York State is immensely diverse, encompassing a wide range of ethnic groups, languages spoken, and countries of origin. According to the 2020 Census, Asian American population numbers 2,173,719 and is the fastest growing racial group in the state, increasing by 37.6% over the last ten years. The Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population is 40,578 and experienced a growth of 11.4% over the same time period.

The AA and NH/PI community also experiences the highest levels of disparities across racial and ethnic groups. For instance, in New York City, 58% of Bangladeshi Americans have incomes 200% below the federal poverty line, whereas only 20% of Filipino Americans meet the same threshold. Most current data collected on the AA and NHPI community lumps all of our diverse groups together as a monolith, thereby masking substantial needs and severe disparities in our community. Data disaggregation breaks down the data into more granular subcategories that will reveal needs in our community that, for too long, have gone unseen and unaddressed by lawmakers and state agencies.

Data Disaggregation in New York City

In 2016, City Council passed [Local Laws 126, 127, and 128](#) that were all signed into law. LL126 mandates that the Department of Social Services, the Administration for Children's Services, the Department of Homeless Services, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department for the Aging, the Department for Youth and Community Development, the Department of Education and any other agencies designated by the mayor that directly or by contract collect demographic information on at least the top 30 largest ancestry groups and languages spoken in the city of New York based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau via form documents. LL127 expanded the demographic collection efforts to include an option on form documents for voluntary identification of multiracial ancestry or ethnic origin. LL128 further expanded demographic collection efforts to include form questions and selections for sexual orientation and gender identity.

Since 2016, however, implementation has been slow. The Mayor's Office of Operations was tasked with conducting annual form reviews to determine which forms across the specified city agencies were eligible for editing and amending to be compliant with LL126-128. In 2020, the form review revealed that of the 74 forms reviewed, 21 were deemed eligible for updating (24 were not within the agency's authority to edit or amend or were issued by another entity, 13 did not contain Demographic Data questions associated with the local laws to update, and 16 were both not within the agency's authority to amend and did not contain Demographic Data questions). Additionally, the current language in the laws also is not specific enough, which poses issues to implementing data disaggregation in the best interest of our communities.

[Int. 1937](#) is the revision bill aimed at offering more specific bill language to more clearly define what is expected of all agencies. As it currently stands, Int. 1937 expands the mandate for data

disaggregation to include all city agencies, but still needs more specifics as relates to the specific demographic questions in agency forms, training for administration of the forms, and dissemination of data collected among other issues. The Committee on Governmental Operations held a hearing on Int. 1937 in November 2021 that CACF testified at, but unfortunately, former Speaker Corey Johnson did not move Int. 1937 for a Council vote.

Next Steps:

- Work with data disaggregation champion(s) in City Council to re-introduce Int. 1937 for the 2022-2023 legislative session and develop robust, revised bill language.
- Build partnerships with city agencies that are currently focused on how best to implement these demographic questions in their forms. We seek to offer the community input in these processes and discussions that our community deserves.

AA & NH/PI Data Disaggregation in New York State

On December 23, 2021, Governor Kathy Hochul signed AA & NH/PI data disaggregation bill S6639/A6896 into state law. CACF along with our longstanding advocate partners and allies [successfully](#) pushed Governor Kathy Hochul to [sign](#) NYS Bill S6639/A6896 into law after over a decade of advocacy. The final bill language mandates that all state agencies, boards, and commissions already collecting demographic data must now collect data on the top ten most populous Asian American ethnic groups and four specific Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander ethnic groups (NH, Samoan, Guamanian, and Chamorro) along with data on languages spoken. All such government entities must also publish their data annually. The law specifies that all such agencies, boards, and commissions must implement AA & NH/PI data disaggregation within two years, with the exception of three entities, including the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), which houses the Office of Housing and Support Services (HSS).

Next Steps:

- Build partnerships with state agencies, boards, and commissions to identify how we can be helpful in implementation of AA & NH/PI data disaggregation and offer community input in these processes.

What CB3 Can Do?

- Connect with city and state agencies relevant to the issue of developing the 191 East Broadway safe haven and/or to the issue of homelessness overall to convey the importance of collecting data disaggregated by ethnicity that can clearly reveal the need within Chinatown for safe haven transitional housing. If any can release such data if they have it, that would be great.
- Any social media or public messaging showing the importance of better data collection on our AA & NH/PI community and/or on the issue of housing and homelessness would be very, very helpful.